

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were pending in this application and were rejected. Claims 1-7 and 11-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,472,649 to Namba et al. ("Namba"), U.S. Patent No. 4,321,664 to Matthai ("Matthai"), and U.S. Patent No. 3,812,390 to Richards ("Richards"). Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Namba, Matthai, and Richards, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,286,186 to Hagenlocker ("Hagenlocker"). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Namba, Matthai, Richards, and Hagenlocker, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,564 to Mori ("Mori").

By this amendment, independent claims 1, 5, 8, 11 and 17 were amended. Claim 1 was amended to recite a diode having a casing "consisting of metal." Similar amendments were made to the other independent claims.

Respectfully, Applicants submit that these amendments distinguish the references that were previously cited. In particular, Matthai (which was alleged to show a diode casing corresponding to the one recited in Applicants' claims) has a plastic sheath K. Accordingly, Matthai cannot disclose a diode casing "consist of metal" as recited in independent claims 1, 5, 8, 11 and 17. Accordingly, claims 1-19 are asserted to be patentably distinct from the previously cited references.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. In the event that a telephone interview would facilitate examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,
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